

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-20, inclusive, and Claims 26 and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer. All pending claims are reproduced herein with a status identifier in parenthesis after the claim number. Hence the status of the claims is as follows:

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Claims 1-20 (Cancel)

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Claim 21 (Twice Amended) A floor tile assembly comprising: a plurality of mutually adjacent tiles composed of a substantially resilient, plastic material and mechanically interlocked along the side and end edges thereof for adhesive-free mounting to an underlying surface, wherein, each of said tiles comprises an elongated base of substantially solid rectangular cross-section of substantially equal width and thickness and having a longitudinal axis a an upwardly-facing top and a downwardly-facing bottom surface and first and second substantially linear peripheral edges forming substantially straight borders, a pair of first rows of open-sided, substantially resilient, interlock structures molded in said base extending parallel to and adjacent to different ones of said first and second edges, the interlock structures of each first row facing in opposite upward or downward respective directions and being comprised of male projections

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and adjacent, open-side female cavities having shapes and being sized substantially as inverted images of one another, the open side of the interlock structure adjacent the first side edge facing downwards in the direction of the bottom surface is disposed to engage an underlying, upwardly facing mating interlock structure of another adjacent tile by applying force from the top surface of said base, and a plurality of transverse stepped end surfaces edges longitudinally spaced from one-another, formed on opposite ends of said base, whereby the base ends are staggered in the longitudinal direction, and a second row of interlock structures on each of the base end edges for interlocking said base edges of substantially similar inverted interlock structures on the base edges of adjacent tiles of the assembly, the structures comprising the first and second rows of said structures intersecting respectively oriented at substantially right angles adjacent to the staggered ends of the tile, thereby interlocking substantially all of said tile edges of the assembly.

22. (Original) The tile assembly according to Claim 21, further comprising:
- a decorative layer adhering to said top surface of each tile simulating a section of a wood floor.

23. (Original) The tile assembly according to Claim 21, wherein the transversely stepped end surfaces on each tile are formed by a staircase of individual steps, each step having longitudinal and transverse intersecting portions to simulate transverse staggering between individual boards a wood floor.

24. (Original) The tile assembly according to Claim 21, wherein the step staircases are positionally inverted relative to a central plane through a said base and perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, and wherein each step has a longitudinally disposed diagonal counterpart step on an opposite base end.

25. (Original) The tile assembly according to Claim 21, further comprising:  
a plurality of top longitudinal grooves, each groove aligned with a longitudinal portion of a step and its opposite counterpart to simulate the longitudinally abutting edges of boards of a wood floor.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

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